(c) whether Government have any proposal in near future to utilise this surplus gas; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) The present production and flaring of natural gas in various parts of the country Is as given below:—

(MMCMD)

Area	Production	Flaring
Western Offshore	**40. 92**	***13.66*** **164**
Gujarat Onshore	**4.56**	**1.27**
Cauveri Basin (Tamil Nadu)	**0.23**	**0.21**
Krishna-Godaveri Basin (A.P.)	**O.1l**	**001**

(c) and (d) In the Western Offshore Region, additional facilities are being proposed to be set up to compress and transport the excess gas production so that it can be brought onshore and supplied to consumers.

In the Assam Region, flaring of gas is mainly due to low/delayed offtake of committed quantity of gas by consumers. Flaring can be considerably reduced once the consumers are ready and lift the gas according to the commitments. It is also proposed to set up underground storage system for storing gas during periods of low upliftments and utilise it during the peak demand periods. In Gujarat, commitments of about 1.9 MMCMD of gas have been made for the power projects of Ahmedabad Electric Co., Gujarat Electricity Board and Gujarat Industries Power Corporation. Flaring of gas in this area would come down when these consumers start lifting gas. In Cauvery Basin, production of gas is mainly from ex-ploratoiy wells for oil production. At present, commitments have been made for small power plants in the area and some other small consumers. Once they come up, the flaring will come down.

Shifting of Salt Commissioner's Office from Jaipur to Gujarat

746. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: SHRI RAOOF VAUUL-LAH:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat is producing more than 60 per cent of salt produced in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the office of the Salt Commissioner is situated in Jaipur where very little salt is being produced;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a demand from Gujarat Government and from Members of Parliament of that State to the - effect that the Salt Commissioner's office should be shifted to the area where salt is being produced in abundance; and

(d) whether Government are also considering to establish an Additional Salt Commissioner's Office in Gujarat and if so, by when this office will start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJTT SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) There is no proposal at present to establish an Additional Salt Commissioner's Office in Gujarat as a Regional Office of the Salt Deptt. headed by Deputy Salt Commissioner is already functioning there and it is sufficient to cater to the needs of the Salt Industry in that region.

Royalty on crude oil produced in Gujarat and Assam

747. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the question of royalty on crude oil produced in Gujarat and Assam is pending for final consideration with the Central Government;

(b) if so, what is the demand of Gujarat and Assam in this regard;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision in the matter; and

(d) if not, by when Government will take a final decision on the question of royalty on crude oil ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d) Government of Gujarat and Government of Assam have, *inter-alia,* demanded increases in the rate of royalty on crude oil from Rs. 192/- to Rs. 683.50 and Rs. 405/- per metric tonne respectively. *The* revision of the rate of royalty on crude oil is under review in consultation with the State Governments. In the meanwhile, an ad-hoc payment of Rs. 100/- per metric tonne for 1989-90 is proposed to be made which would be adjusted against the payment after the final revision of the rate of royalty.

Allotment of LPG connection en the recommendations of Members of Parliament

748. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have discontinued the practice of allotting LPG connections on out of turn basis on the recommendations of Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor, and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for not releasing such connections during the last four months ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) During the last four months following numbers of LPG connections have been released on priority basis on the recommendations of Members of Parliament against their quota:.

Months	No. of connections
November, 89 .	**1,348**
December, 89 .	**952**
January, 90	**606**
February, 90 .	**606**